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INTERNATIONAL MANHUNT FOR CONVICTED SWINDLER BY ANDREW BLUM WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.

The lawyer for a convicted swindler who lured renegade CIA agent Edwin Wilson into a federal trap and claimed to be huntimg Robert Vesco and ex-Nazi Josef Mengele, said Monday his client would never be captured.

Ernest Keiser, 65, vanished Jan. 31, 12 days after he was convicted of grand larceny in a phony \$415,000 Florida land deal. His wife, Bahira, faces perjury and is also a fugitive.

Keiser helped lure Wilson from Libya to the United States in 1982 with the same property investment scam. Wilson, since sentenced to over 60 years in jail for arms smuggling, allegedly tried to hire a hitman to kill Keiser.

Keiser also claimed to be working to find fugitive financier Vesco and Mengele.

Authorities have mounted an international manhunt for Keiser, but his attorney, William Aronwald, said Monday he did not think his client would be captured, even if he was located.

''He'll be located but not caught, '' Aronwald said. He refused to elaborated.

Keiser was convicted of swindling Mamaroneck investor Jack Farris in the florida land deal. Prosecutors said Keiser had only an option to buy the property.

Sentencing was delayed last month when authorities told Judge Gerard Delaney there was a chance of apprehending Keiser.

''We do have reason to believe there is a possibility of apprehending him,'' said prosecutor Tony Berk.

Federal authorities said Monday they have no new leads on the couple's whereabouts.

Delaney indicated he would fine Keiser \$830,000, twice the amount involved in the fraudulent land deal.